(b) the details of funds allotted for each stretch during the last three years including the current year; and

(c) the stretches that are given priority in execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) There is no proposal for declaring more roads as National Highways in the Country including Tamil Nadu. At present, emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

(b) Funds for development of National Highways are not allocated stretch-wise. Allocation of funds is made State-wise and the details of the allocation of funds for the State of Tamil Nadu are given below:—

(Amounts in Rs. crore)

Head/Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Development Works	89.04	86.55	86.91	87.69
Maintenance & Repair (M&R)	41.36	36.18	54.30	28.97

(c) Development and Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and the same is carried out in a phased manner. The stretches of National Highways in the country are prioritized on the basis of traffic intensity, *inter-se*-priority, condition and availability of funds.

Development of NHs in Jharkhand

364. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No. 24 connecting Gumla to Rourkela via Simdega is hardly six feet wide;

(b) the reasons for which Government are neglecting the National Highways in tribal areas more particularly in Jharkhand in Simdega district;

(c) whether Government have any intention in doubling this highway in the near future; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (d) Hon'ble member has mentioned NH-24 which is between Delhi and Lucknow. However the National Highway connecting Gumla to Rourkela via Simdega in Jharkhand is NH-23. Total length of NH-23 from Gumla to Orissa border via Simdega in Jharkhand is 121.20 km. of which 71 km. is single lane having carriageway width of 3.0 metre and balance length is two lane having carriageway width of 7.0 metre. Out of 71 km. single lane, 25 km. length has already been sanctioned for widening to two lane and widening of 18 km. length to two lane has been included in the Annual Plan 2006-07. Widening of remaining length will depend upon availability of funds and *inter se* priority of works.

Traffic density In Rajasthan

365. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the traffic density on Golden Quadrilateral portion in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether Government feel that these traffic density needs six-laning of Golden Quadrilateral in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, by when this work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Proposal for six laning of whole Golden Quadrilateral including those passing through Rajasthan is included under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase V.

(c) Proposal is at preliminary stage and as such it is too early to indicate the date of start.

Construction of plastic road

366. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Ministry of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to construct plastic roads in the country;